

THE GUARDIAN

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Editor and Manager, Ian A. Burnett. Associate Editor, Frank Walker.

CIRCULATION "Covers Prince Edward Island like the dew" "The strongest memory is weaker than the weakest ink".

CHARLOTTETOWN, TUESDAY, MAR. 23, 1954

Commonwealth Conference

In his welcoming speech to the delegates to the fifth Commonwealth conference which is being held in Lahore, Prime Minister Mohammad Ali of Pakistan spoke rather bluntly of some of the shortcomings of Commonwealth relations. He balanced this, however, by also outlining some of the advantages of adherence to the Commonwealth.

His chief criticism was of the following of the line of least resistance in disputes between members, the particular dispute he had in mind no doubt being that between India and his own country. It is true, of course, that neither the Commonwealth as a whole nor individual members have decisively taken sides in the matter of the disposition of disputed Kashmir and that may possibly give the world an impression of "lack of purpose" on the part of the Commonwealth.

On the other hand such interference would almost certainly be resented by whichever of the parties was thereby put at a disadvantage, if not by both. There can hardly be complaint that the Commonwealth neglected attempting to bring about a solution agreeable to both India and Pakistan for its members made personnel available to supervise elections on behalf of the United Nations and otherwise tried to bring about a satisfactory solution.

The present conference is not, of course, an official one. Its members do not directly make policy for the nations they represent. They do, however, contribute very considerably to the formation of public opinion on Commonwealth matters and there may well come out of the present meetings some more effective means of settling differences between members.

University Interchange

The progress in the Commonwealth Universities Interchange scheme is demonstrated in the report of the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth. The scheme provides grants for fares of various grades of academic people travelling from the U. K. to another major country of the Commonwealth or vice versa.

The demand on the fund is now much greater than can be met, says the report. There is a need for widening the purposes of the scheme to enable it to cover travel to and from the Colonies and travel between Commonwealth countries other than the United Kingdom. The Congress of the Association has accepted proposals that, as the opportunity is afforded, further funds should be sought from other Governments in the Commonwealth.

During the course of the year Carleton College became a member of the Association. Other Canadian members include the Universities of Acadia, Alberta, British Columbia, Dalhousie, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Manitoba, Montreal, Mount Allison, New Brunswick, Queen's, Saskatchewan, St. George Williams College, St. Francis Xavier, Toronto, and Western Ontario. Canadian representatives on the Executive Council for 1953 were Dr. G. P. Gilmour of McMaster and Dr. W. A. Mackintosh of Queen's.

Australia's Timber

For the first time in her history a careful survey is being made which within the next four years should provide a precise estimate of Australia's timber resources. Every State has now under way a program, designed to give a detailed account of standing timber, its productive capacity and its ability to meet future requirements. The production of Australian sawn timber for all purposes is now about 100,000,000 cubic feet a year. Twenty years hence, it is estimated, the population will be 12,000,000 and on the basis of present per capita consumption Australia will need 150,000,000 cubic feet a year.

Compared with Canada, with her 37 per cent of forest lands, or the United States, with 33 per cent, Australia is poorly endowed with timber. Some authorities doubt whether she has more than 20,000 square miles of prime forest. Areas for which there are more or less reliable estimates of growing stock amount to about 15,500 square miles. About half the productive forest area has been covered by reservations of one kind or another and 19,000,000 acres have been permanently dedicated to the production of timber. To convert these more or less reliable estimates into precise data is the aim of

the present stocktaking.

About 30 per cent of the timber at present used in Australia is softwood and the remainder hardwood, with the result that hardwoods have had to be put to many uses for which softwood is available in this country — casing, roofing timber and plywood, to mention only a few. This lack of balance is being remedied.

Science and industry are combining to find entirely new avenues of revenue from timber. One has proved a dollar earner — the manufacture of rutin, a glycoside used in the United States for the treatment of certain conditions of capillary fragility. Rutin in practically pure form is now being produced from the leaves of the eucalyptus known as the red stringy bark and last year's exports to America were worth \$20,000. Last year, too, Australia exported largely to Germany 200 tons of the leaves of the corkwood tree known as Duboisia myoporoides, which are rich in alkaloids and are used to make a drug known as buscopan, an atropine derivative used in the treatment of stomach ailments.

More Forest Areas Needed

In the regular farming areas of France, Germany or the United Kingdom, notes the Financial Post, some 25 acres out of every 100 are in forest. Here the proportion in the same sort of well-settled area would not be more than 15 acres. And from the standpoint of timber value and total growth, there would be just no comparison. Only by courtesy do we call such land forested in Canada. Most of it would be more correctly styled bush or waste.

It is this small proportion of tree cover, particularly in the densely populated parts of the central provinces, that accounts for much of our flood trouble. They have floods in Europe, too, but not nearly to the same extent as in Canada. Their forested areas usually sop up most of the surplus water. Here, because of much heavier winter snows and shorter natural runoff period, we have greater need of sopping up, yet we actually have much less to sop up with.

That situation, says The Post, will have to be remedied or our flood losses are going to increase. And we can remedy it easily and with great general benefit. There is much marginal land, even in our best farm areas, that could be planted to trees with no appreciable reduction in agricultural output. Not only would this help to hold snow and water, thus control spring runoffs, but it would add beauty and interest to our countryside, increase wild life and bolster our dwindling supplies of precious water.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Ontario has decided to make it compulsory for trucks and trailers to have bumpers which will engage with those of other vehicles on the highway. The distressing accident near Summerside last week shows all too clearly the need for such a provision.

The cost of bank services is climbing like that of many other things. The service charge on cheques cashed on savings accounts is now ten cents instead of eight. The three "free cheques" per quarter are eliminated but one "free" cheque is still allowed for every full \$100 on deposit to a maximum of three.

Anyone who has read of the Kon Tiki expedition across the Pacific by balsa raft will be intrigued by the success of three British scientists in drifting across the Atlantic from Dakar to Barbados. It will be recalled that the purpose of the Kon Tiki expedition was to prove it possible for an ancient people to have moved from Europe and Africa to South America and thence across to Polynesia.

The finding of radio-active deposits 90 miles north of Ottawa may make some people wish that the discovery had been made before the enormous expense had been undertaken to develop the site on Great Bear Lake. On the other hand much development work in the northland might have been long delayed to this country's long range disadvantage had the more accessible deposits been known fifteen years ago.

Sir Alfred, Viscount Milner, British administrator, was born this date 1854. He wrote for the Pall Mall Gazette for about four years and then served for four years as under-secretary of finance in Egypt. This was followed by a succession of appointments. Much criticism resulted from his policies in South Africa which favoured political equality for British subjects with the dominant Boers and which may well have led to the hostilities. He was made governor of the Transvaal and Orange River colonies nevertheless, in which post he strongly opposed the granting of self-government.

Annual Airing



Old Charlottetown

(And P. E. I.)

RAILWAY INVENTION

"A representative of The Examiner had the pleasure, this morning, of examining an invention of Joseph Unsworth, Esq., Superintendent of the P. E. Island Railway, by which any train or number of trains can be, almost instantly, stopped at any time, day or night, winter or summer, on any part of a railway furnished with it. By means of this invention a train despatcher or station master who may happen, by mistake, to permit two trains to be running in opposite directions between stations, can stop both trains in a moment, and send each back to the station from which it started. If he should by any means discover that any other cause of accident whatever had arisen, he could instantly warn the passing train of its danger.

"More than this, if anything should happen to a train, the conductor will, by means of this invention, be able to communicate the fact to headquarters in the course of a few minutes, and call for any assistance that he may require. Moreover, the dispatcher at any station will be able, by means of this invention, to communicate information to the conductors of trains as they travel along. "Gauged by the lives it will save, if applied, and the property it will keep from destruction, as well as by its ingenuity, simplicity and completeness, the invention will, we believe, take rank in the near future as a great one." —The Examiner, Nov. 2, 1888.

Notes By The Way

A reader says he wonders what has happened to men's manners and chivalry. He tells of seeing a woman climb on an Ottawa tram carrying a heavy baby. All seats were occupied. Some men seated near the front looked at her without interest. And who got up and gave her a seat? Another woman, an elderly lady at that. —Ottawa Journal.

Finland's summers are too short, as motion picture directors have long since learned. Summer scenes for a film now showing in Helsinki were made last October, and among the odd jobs facing the moviemakers was the tying of green branches to a tree from which autumn already had nipped most of the leaves. One scene called for the leading lady to splash gaily in a woodland pool. She did seven times in one day. Each time they revived her with hot coffee and the sauna. A hay-making scene had to be reshot when it was discovered that the actors' breath had been steaming on a "hot summer day." —Finlandia.

A colleague of ours, Douglas M. Gowdy, just back from a trip to New York, dropped in to report a service which might well be more widely copied. He went in to the offices of Parents' magazine to see his son, who works there. When he came out it was raining heavily. The receptionist offered him an umbrella and a pair of rubbers which he gladly took. It's a planned facility, with a plentiful supply of umbrellas and rubbers of various sizes. For the first day they are free. Thereafter there's a charge of five cents a day. The majority of users return the goods promptly. —Napier Moore in Financial Post.

Before the war women in Ball used to consider themselves fully clothed if they wore just a sarong around their waists. But now the government of Indonesia frowns on such a state of nakedness and ladies are encouraged to wear blouses. And so the ladies do. They have ever discovered how and exactly where a blouse should be worn. Many girls seem to think if the blouse is just worn somewhere, then they have done their duty—round the ankle, strapped on the waist, or twisted round the head—these were favorite places for this patriotic blouse. Altogether I got the impression that this dressing up business was all really a rather unnecessary concession to an unpleasant march of time. —The Listener, London.

Our feathered friends, alive and mechanical are getting a big play in American homes. Pet stores are rushed to keep up with the demand for parakeets, and now comes word from Germany that Americans last year bought more than \$3 million worth of cuckoo clocks made by Black Forest peasants. The Germans are enjoying the cuckoo clock boom, but in Los Angeles, where raising parakeets is a substantial at-home hobby, some people are complaining of neighbors having 200 or more at a time. This interest in bird life apparently is harmless enough, but there is one little complication it might be well to avoid. Suppose a family which owned a pair of parakeets bought a cuckoo clock. One cuckoo clock is bad enough, but one clock and two parakeets that mimic it probably would be rather distracting. —Houston, Texas, Post.

The government-owned B. B. C. recently came up with the greatest advance in the television industry since the invention of the cathode tube. The beautiful Duchess of Rutland, dressed in a magnificent evening gown, was paid to sit before the TV cameras holding a book and saying not a word. The stunning duchess was a smashing success. The whole idea is sheer genius. It is hard to imagine anything more pleasing to almost everybody than the picture of a beautiful woman, richly gowned, sitting silently in repose. It is to be hoped that the idea spreads, with all possible speed, to the TV producers in Canada and the United States. —Belleville Intelligence.

Furs and Foxes

(Ottawa Journal) A curious bit of social history is reflected in the report from the Canadian Bureau of Statistics that only 232 men's fur coats were made in the Dominion in 1952, a drop of 400 from 1951.

This is a sad decline from the brave days early in this century when the ambition of every right-thinking Canadian man was to own a massive and shaggy fur coat, preferably rounded out with a fur hat and fur gauntlets. On a cold day such outfits were everywhere to be seen, and they were one of Canada's most impressive spectacles. The story is told of one newly-arrived English immigrant who watched a procession of the leading citizens of Montreal go by enveloped in furs from ankles to ears, and inquired in awe: "Blimey, do all Canadians grow 'air like that?"

The gradual disappearance of the fur-bearing Canadian man is probably not so much the result of changes in fashion as of altered living conditions. In the old days, when going anywhere in winter meant a long walk or a slow, cold drive in a sleigh or buggy, a heavy fur coat was almost a necessity. Today, the automobile and the bus have largely removed the need for such massive protection against the weather. Before long, we suppose, only women's patronage will be left to sustain Canada's oldest industry.

The Poet's Corner

FROM THE YARN OF THE 'LOCH ACHRAY'

She couldn't lay-to nor yet pay-off, And she got swept clean in the bloody trough; Her masts were gone, and afore you knowed She filled by the head and down she goed. Her crew made seven-and-twenty dishes For the big jack-sharks and the little fishes, And over their bones the water swishes. Hear the yarn of a sailor, An old yarn learned at sea. The wives and the girls they watch in the rain For a ship as won't come home agin. 'I reckon it's them head-winds,' they say, 'She'll be home tomorrow, if not today. I'll just nip home 'n' I'll air the sheets 'N' buy the fixins 'n' cook the meats As my man likes 'n' as my man eats.' So home they goes by the windy streets, Thinking their men are homeward bound With anchors hungry for English ground, And the bloody fun of it is, they're drowned! Hear the yarn of a sailor, An old yarn learned at sea. —John Macfie.

The Age Old Story

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee, Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

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The Passing Scene

By Observer CONCERNING THREE OPINIONS

Of all the opinions expressed by the prominent political figures last week and reported in the press, three seem to me to be of special importance. Two of them were expressed by Britishers, the other by a Canadian. Sir Hartley Shawcross, a Labour member of Parliament and one time Attorney General in the British cabinet, said in a political speech that he feels quite sure the American people will do the "right thing" about McCarthyism. Then he added: "Britain expects the United States to be true to our joint heritage and confident in the certainty that in the end truth and decency, fairplay and tolerance, are the greatest and cleanest weapons of all against those forces which would overthrow our democratic way of life."

Some other British Labour leaders, notably Mr. Morrison and Mr. Bevan, have been hitting hard in recent months at Senator McCarthy's methods, which like most other people, they consider to be the very antithesis of democratic principles. Sir Hartley does not say a word against their motives nor does he disagree with their conclusions. His point is that exaggerated criticism of what is mainly an American problem can do as much harm as good in Anglo-American methods; for, as he put it, "Americans resent foreign criticisms of any of their politicians, however open to criticism he may be."

Sir Hartley's counsel of caution seems to coincide with a view which has been slowly gathering strength in responsible circles in the United States, that Senator McCarthy has been receiving a great deal more attention that he deserves. All demagogues have an overwhelming amount of vanity in their souls, and vanity feeds and grows on publicity, whether it be good publicity or bad doesn't bother them in the least; if a touch of the martyr complex is added to it, so much the better for the demagogue.

A few days ago it was reported that the Senator had accepted an invitation to speak in Toronto; immediately someone suggested in Parliament that the Government should take steps to prevent his appearance. It is good to hear that the Government has no such plan in mind. If the Senator has anything new to tell Canadians about the Communist menace to their security, by all means he should have the chance to say what it is. In any case, McCarthyism is not going to take Canadian root overnight just because his author spends a few hours in Toronto. It is just as foolish to suggest that anyone who listens to his speeches is a Fascist as to say (as he does) that anyone who disagrees with his methods is a Communist.

Sir Gladwyn Jebb, who spent considerable time as Britain's chief delegate to the United Nations, said that in his opinion the Chinese Communists should be admitted to the world body as soon as they have "purged themselves of aggression." He thinks that the predominant American opinion

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